

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

*961. **Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of abducted Indian women and children still to be recovered from Pakistan and the number so far recovered;

(b) whether all the abducted women and children so far recovered have come to India; and

(c) the steps so far taken to rehabilitate them in India?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) and (b). The hon. Member presumably desires information in respect of non-Muslim abducted women and children. The number of such abducted persons recovered in Pakistan from 1-12-1947 to 30-9-1954 is 9,020; of these 8,777 have been received in India. It is regretted that it is not possible to supply the figures of abducted persons yet to be recovered from Pakistan, as the work of recoveries is done on the basis of clues received from various sources which frequently result in overlapping of names etc. and make it difficult to calculate the total number of cases of abduction.

(c) Most of the recovered persons received in India have been restored to their relatives. There are only a few cases of such persons whose relatives could not be traced or were unwilling to accept them. Such persons were handed over to the Rehabilitation Homes.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the progress of recovery in Pakistan is very slow as compared to that in India, and if so, why?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not want to emulate all that. We are trying to do our best and we leave Pakistan to do their best.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: The hon. Minister has just stated that a number of abducted women have not come back to India from East Pakistan. May I know the reasons?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not accept the first premise when he says that a large number of women who have been recovered in Pakistan have not come over to India; that is not correct. I do not know what is the basis of that information. Quite a large number of women have been recovered and have gone back to their homes, and a big percentage out of them have actually come over to India.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that there are some relations of these abducted women who refuse to receive back these abducted women from Pakistan?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, I must confess that in spite of my best efforts I have not been able to follow what the hon. Member wants.

Mr. Speaker: Whether many relations of these abducted women refuse to accept them in their homes?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is incorrect. Actually, the recovered Hindu and Sikh women who have been brought over to India have been accepted in society and have been accepted by their relatives and friends.

SHOW ROOMS IN EMBASSIES

*962. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian handicrafts and cottage industries products are in great demand in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open show-rooms for exhibiting Indian products in the embassies where there are no show-rooms already?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) It is a fact that there is some demand for the articles mentioned.

(b) Yes, Sir.

I should also like to add that the export of handicrafts is growing on account of the exhibitions being held in different countries.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the number of Embassies where there are such show-rooms?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I could tell my hon. friend that the show-rooms set up in premises specially acquired for the purpose are in Colombo, Malaya, Bangkok, Philippines and Thailand. There are 4 centres where moderate size show-rooms are set up in the Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates or Legation premises, and there are 18 centres where nucleus show-rooms or show-windows exist for display purposes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know when the exhibits for the show-rooms are selected, whether the Embassy places the order direct or is it done through some agency in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: These articles that are being displayed in show-rooms are selected by us—the Handicraft Board and officers of the Government of India concerned in that behalf. These show-rooms are for purposes of show and not for purposes of sales. Some of the exhibits exhibited in the exhibition are also sold if found feasible; otherwise the show rooms are there for show.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I wanted to know whether the Embassies help those people who are satisfied with the things and who want them?

Shri Karmarkar: Certainly; it is one of the duties of the Embassies.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know what arrangements there are in those places where there are show-rooms in the Embassies for people of those countries to order for large quantities of those articles, and how they are supplied?

Shri Karmarkar: Recently it has been our policy to tie up the show-rooms or particular centres with corporations to be established in the

countries concerned and Government have recently approved a scheme to set up a particular centre in New York to deal with the corporation.

HIGH POWER TRANSMITTER

*971. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) when the high-power transmitter is going to be installed in the West Coast (Malayalam speaking area); and

(b) where it will be located?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) By March, 1956.

(b) The exact location of the transmitter has not yet been finalised.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether by this time any preliminary investigations have been conducted for the selection of the site concerned.

Dr. Keskar: Preliminary investigations are taking place and a number of alternative sites are being considered.

Shri Achuthan: May I know what is the estimated expenditure intended for installation of this high-power transmitter station?

Dr. Keskar: I won't be able to give the exact figure; it will be probably about Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs.

Shri Achuthan: In view of the fact that Trichur, Cranganur and Irinjalakuda are culturally important places situated almost in the centre of Kerala, will there be any consideration shown by the Government that this station must be in the central place of Kerala?

Dr. Keskar: Yes; the object of locating this transmitter is to see that a major part of the Kerala area is covered by radio and all relevant factors will be taken into consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the high-power transmitter